

## State Water Resources Control Board

June 20, 2023

Mr. Jason Morse  
Mendocino Unified School District  
44141 Little Lake Road  
Mendocino, CA 95460



Dear Mr. Jason Morse:

SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR MENDOCINO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (MUSD); WATER SYSTEM RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT- WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS (PROJECT); MENDOCINO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2020080439

### **DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY PERMIT AMMENDMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subsequent MND for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Project is within the jurisdiction of DDW Mendocino District. DDW Mendocino District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified source of domestic water supply or new domestic water system components pursuant to Waterworks Standards (Title 22 CCR chapter 16 et. seq.). MUSD will need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

### **FUNDING**

MUSD has an executed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) financing agreement for this Project (DWSRF No. C-06-2300584-001C). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board is providing the following water quality comments on the subsequent MND.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the DWSRF Program (Program). The primary purpose for the Program is to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for drinking facilities improvements to provide clean potable drinking water, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state.

All applicants seeking funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and provide appropriate documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities, see [CEQA Requirements](#).

Following are specific comments on MUSD's draft subsequent MND:

- The Project scope of the MND and the scope of the DWSRF financing agreement for this Project (DWSRF No. C-06-2300584-001C) does not match. Please work with your State Water Board Project manager to request an update of the funding Project, and if approved, revision of the scope of work. Update the MND to reflect the agreed upon Project, as needed.
- The access road locations appear to depend on the well site locations. Please be sure to coordinate with the State Water Board, DDW Mendocino District Office to ensure the Project well locations will meet District requirements. If the well locations cannot be used, the access roads may need to be modified.
- The document indicates during a drought period, emergency water supplies will be used for community use and water trucks will transport such water to properties within the MUSD and the Mendocino City Community Services District service areas. Is there a current plan that will be developed that considers this action (triggers for when the truck water delivery will need to be implemented, the total amount of water that will be available, the allocated amount of water per user, the estimated number of users that will need water, and where it will come from [tanks, wells, etc.]?)
  - If so, please attach the plan.
  - If not, please explain your plans or discuss how these plans will be developed as part of the Project.
    - If wells will provide the water will Mitigation HWQ-2 still be followed during emergency drought periods? If not, explain how nearby well users will be impacted and mitigated, as needed.
- How will the existing tank destruction and the tank new construction be coordinated? Will there be temporary tanks that are used in the interim? If so, where will they be stationed? Will water supply be maintained to users?

Please upload to Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool the following applicable documents for the proposed Project, according to MUSD's CEQA process: (1) one copy of the draft and final MND with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), (2) the resolution adopting the MND and MMRP, (3) all comments received during the review period and the District's response to those comments, and (4) the Notice of Determination filed with the Mendocino County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, please send these documents and notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review to Robyn Mendoza via email at [Robyn.Mendoza@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Robyn.Mendoza@waterboards.ca.gov)

Thank you for the opportunity to review MUSD's draft subsequent MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 449-5285, or by email at [Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov) or contact Mrs. Bridget Binning at (916) 449-5641, or by email at [Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Bridget.Binning@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

cc: State Clearinghouse

Bridget Binning, Division of Financial Assistance

Robyn Mendoza, Division of Financial Assistance

Francine Anne Fua, Division of Financial Assistance

Zachary Rounds, Division of Drinking Water

Matt Foster, Division of Drinking Water